

CAR-83  
Chapel of the Epiphany  
Preston  
Public

Circa

Adjacent the Douglas House in Preston is a small frame chapel built by the Douglasses as a Swedenborgian denomination church. It is a simple frame structure with "Gothic" windows (lancet arches) with a bell tower attached to a front corner of the gable facade. In composition, it is similar to a small Episcopal Chapel in Stockton, Worcester County.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CAR-83

0600834608

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Chapel of Epiphany

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

South side of Maryland Route 331

CITY, TOWN

Preston

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Caroline

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Swedenborough Church of the Epiphany

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Protestant Episcopal Church

CITY, TOWN

Preston

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21655

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Caroline County Courthouse

Liber #: 87

Folio #: 477

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Denton

STATE

Maryland 21629

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ UNALTERED  
☐ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Chapel of Epiphany is located on the south side of Maryland Route 331 in Preston, Caroline County. The nineteenth century structure is an Episcopal Church whose architectural design includes a notable bell tower and steeple.

The church is built in a rectangular plan with a square bell tower adjoining the northwest corner of the main section. The structure is frame and German siding on a brick foundation with a broad gable roof. The main facade (north elevation) is the gable end with three bays. There is a central entrance with double doors and a pointed arch transom. Above the entrance is a gable porch roof supported by triangular wood brackets and with a cross finial at the peak of the roof. Lancet windows are in the other bay and a small lancet ventilator is in the gable. There is also a molded wood water table and molded cornice. The bell tower is constructed in the same material but has thinner proportioned lancet windows. There is an open belfrey with a balustrade along four posts which support a tall octagonal steeple roof. Metal ornamentation is on the top of the steeple. The main section is five bays deep with lancet windows in all the bays except for the southernmost which has an entrance.

The interior is one large room with a vestibule. There are two sections of wood pews with a center aisle. The walls are plaster with a vertical board dado and molded chair rail. Three bays of the roof framing are exposed. The alter is recessed and has a pointed arch.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chapel of Epiphany is a representative rectangular plan, gable facade church whose architectural character is enhanced and delicately balanced by its lofty bell tower. Although from some perspectives the design seems awkward, the associative value of the bell tower creates a effective display appropriate to church architecture in rural communities

It was built as a Swedenborgian church, and was built by the Douglas's

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant, &amp; Joe Getty

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

April, 1977

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

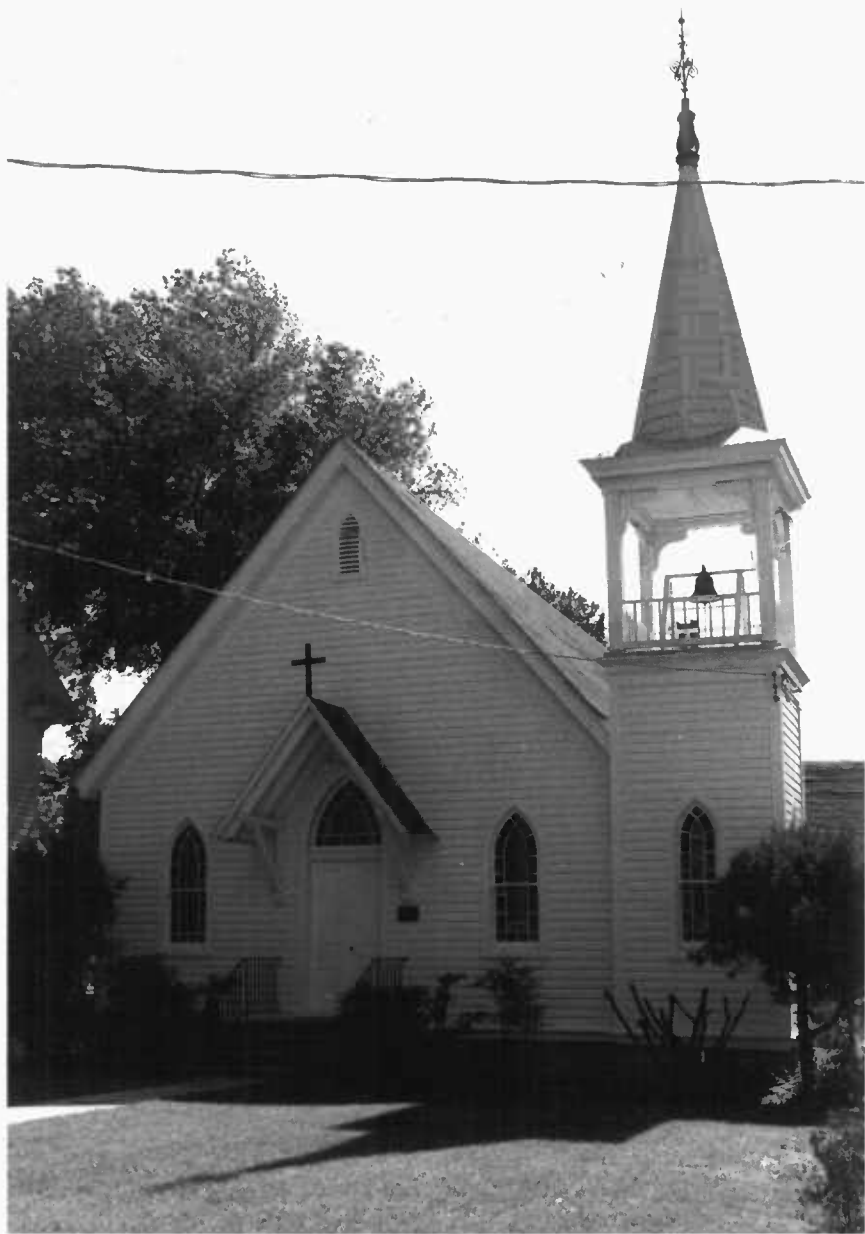
STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

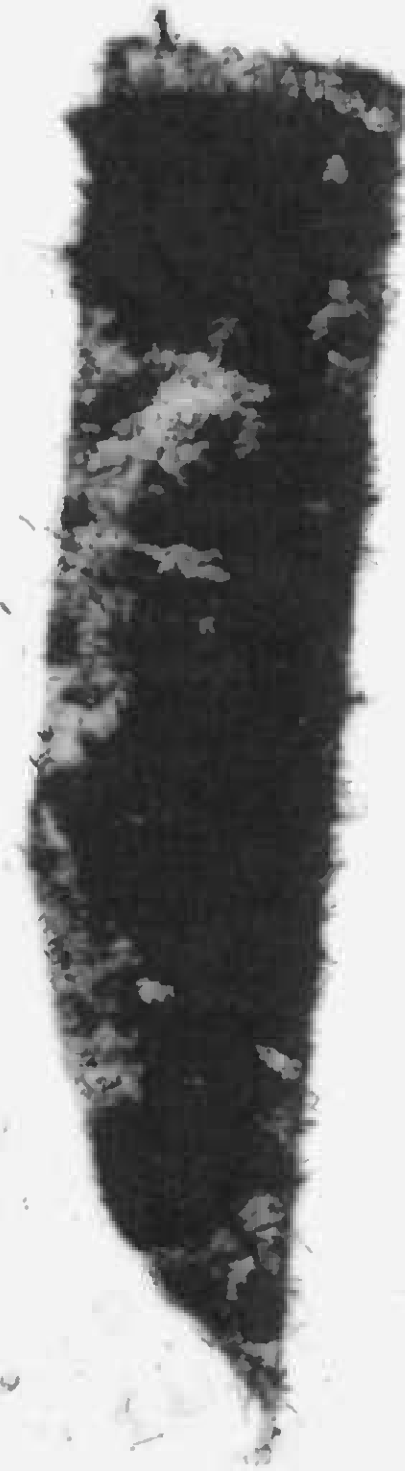
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



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J. Getty

5/77